

Docket No. 70669

**REMARKS**

In order to hopefully place the case in condition for prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance, the withdrawn claims have been canceled and other of the claims have been amended without prejudice to Applicants' right to present claims of this general scope as a part of one or more divisional applications.

In response to the Examiner's objection to the language, the terminology "a fragment" has been substituted for the objectionable phrase. In response to the new rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, various of the claims have been amended so as to consistently use the terminology prolyl oligopeptidase activity instead of "same biological function". Taking the Examiner's objections with regard to "DNA transcript" and "RNA" into consideration, changes have been made to various of the claims to further distinctly claim what Applicants believe to be their invention. It is believed that such changes should be acceptable to the Examiner and that the objection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, should now be reconsidered and withdrawn.

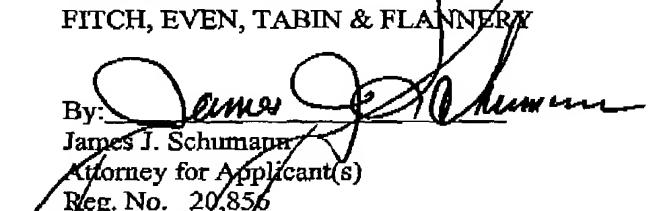
With respect to the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, changes have been made to the various claims relating to antisense so as to recite that the claimed antisense is a fragment nucleic acid as defined in either base claim, i.e., either claim 22 or claim 35. In view of these changes, it is believed these amended claims will obviate the objections earlier stated with regard to §112, first paragraph, and that this rejection should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

It is believed that these changes address all of the points raised by the Examiner in the most recent Office Action, and in the absence of more pertinent prior art, it is believed that this application has been placed in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the allowance of claims 22-31, 35-38 and 40-44 is respectfully requested. The issuance of a Notice of Allowance is now believed to be in order, and such action is courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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